

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 4-5, 7, 10, 12-13, 16, 18, 20-22, 24, 31-33, cancel claims 25-28 and 30, and add new claims 34-44 all as shown below. All pending claims are reproduced below, including those that remain unchanged. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method of organizing a plurality of objects, comprising the steps of:

receiving user selections of multiple objects from the plurality of objects;

creating one or more groups of objects from the multiple objects;

designating a representative object for each of the groups of objects;

searching the plurality of objects using a search parameter, and

for the plurality of objects that meet the search parameter and that are part of one or more groups, returning the representative objects of groups of which any of the plurality of objects that meet the search parameter are members; and

for particular ones of the plurality of objects that meet the search parameter and that are not part of one or more groups, returning the particular objects;

displaying the returned representative objects of the groups of objects, the returned representative objects improving organization of objects and saving display space; and

displaying the particular objects.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein one or more of the plurality of objects comprises being part of more than one of the one or more groups of objects.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of displaying the representative object of the group further includes not displaying the other objects of the group, and indicating that the object being displayed is a representative object of the group.
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further including the steps of:
detecting an additional object; and,
adding the additional object to one or more of the groups of objects, responsive to the detecting step.
6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising, for a returned representative object of a group, displaying objects of the group other than the representative object by selecting the representative object.
7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising changing the representative object of any of the groups of objects.
8. (Canceled).
9. (Previously presented) An article of manufacture including an information storage medium wherein is stored information for programming a computer to perform a method of organizing a plurality of objects, the method comprising the steps of:
receiving user selections of multiple objects from the plurality of objects;
creating one or more groups of objects from the multiple objects;
designating a representative object for each of the groups of objects;
searching the plurality of objects using a search parameter, and
for the plurality of objects that meet the search parameter and that are part of one or more groups, returning the representative objects of groups of which any of the plurality of objects that meet the search parameter are members; and
for particular ones of the plurality of objects that meet the search parameter and that are not part of one or more groups, returning the particular objects;

displaying the returned representative objects of the groups of objects, the returned representative objects improving organization of objects and saving display space; and displaying the particular objects.

10. (Currently amended) The article of manufacture wherein information is stored for programming as in claim 9, wherein one or more of the plurality of objects comprises being part of more than one of the one or more groups of objects.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently amended) The article of manufacture wherein information is stored for programming as in claim 9, wherein the step of displaying the representative object of the group further includes not displaying the other objects of the group, and indicating that the object being displayed is a representative object of the ~~first and second objects~~ group.

13. (Currently amended) The article of manufacture wherein information is stored for programming as in claim 9, further including the steps of:

detecting an additional object; and

adding the additional object to one or more the groups of objects, responsive to the detecting step.

14. (Previously presented) The article of manufacture wherein information is stored for programming as in claim 9, further comprising, for a returned representative object of a group, displaying objects of the group other than the representative object by selecting the representative object .

15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently amended) The article of manufacture wherein information is stored for programming as in claim 9, further comprising changing the representative object of any of the groups of objects.

17. (Previously presented) An apparatus for organizing a plurality of objects, comprising:
a processor;
a display device in communication with the processor; and
a processor readable storage medium in communication with the processor, containing process readable program code for programming the apparatus to perform the method of organizing a plurality of objects, the method comprising the steps of:
receiving user selections of multiple objects from the plurality of objects;
creating one or more groups of objects from the multiple objects;
designating a representative object for each of the groups of objects;
searching the plurality of objects using a search parameter, and
for the plurality of objects that meet the search parameter and that are part of one or more groups, returning the representative objects of groups of which any of the plurality of objects that meet the search parameter are members; and
for particular ones of the plurality of objects that meet the search parameter and that are not part of one or more groups, returning the particular objects;
displaying the returned representative objects of the groups of objects, the returned representative objects improving organization of objects and saving display space; and
displaying the particular objects.
18. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein one or more of the plurality of objects comprises being part of more than one of the one or more groups of objects.
19. (Canceled).
20. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the step of displaying the representative object of the group further includes not displaying the other objects of the group, and indicating that the object being displayed is ~~the~~ a representative object of the group.
21. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the processor readable program code contained in the processor readable storage medium further includes the steps of:

detecting an additional object; and,
adding the additional object to one or more of the groups of objects, responsive to the detecting step.

22. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising, for a returned representative object of a group, a displaying ~~of~~ of objects of the group other than the representative object by ~~a selection of~~ selecting the representative object.

23. (Canceled).

24. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising a change of the representative object of any of the groups of objects.

25-30. (Canceled).

31. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of designating a representative object is performed by designating the first object selected during the step of creating one or more groups of objects.

32. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ The article of manufacture wherein information is stored for programming as in claim 9, wherein the step of designating a representative object is performed by designating the first object selected during the step of creating one or more groups of objects.

33. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the step of designating a representative object is performed by designating the first object selected during the step of creating one or more groups of objects.

34. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein each returned representative object is expandable to show all the members of the group or collapsible to show only the representative object.

35. (New) The article of manufacture wherein information is stored for programming as in claim 9, wherein each returned representative object is expandable to show all the members of the group or collapsible to show only the representative object.

36. (New) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein each returned representative object is expandable to show all the members of the group or collapsible to show only the representative object.

37. (New) A method of organizing a plurality of objects, comprising the steps of:
receiving user selections of multiple objects from the plurality of objects;
creating one or more groups of objects from the multiple objects;
designating a representative object for each of the groups of objects;
assigning a first value to each representative object;
assigning a second value to the other objects in each of the groups of objects;
searching the plurality of objects using a search parameter, and

for the plurality of objects that meet the search parameter and that are part of one or more groups, returning the representative objects that are those objects having a first value, of groups of objects for which any of the plurality of objects that meet the search parameter are members; and

for particular ones of the plurality of objects that meet the search parameter and that are not part of one or more groups, returning the particular objects;

displaying the returned representative objects of the groups of objects, the returned representative objects improving organization of objects and saving display space; and

displaying the particular objects.

38. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein one or more of the plurality of objects comprises being part of more than one of the one or more groups of objects.

39. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the step of displaying the representative object of the group further includes not displaying the other objects of the group, and indicating that the object being displayed is a representative object of the group.

40. (New) The method of claim 37, further including the steps of:
detecting an additional object;
assigning the second value to the additional object; and,
adding the additional object to one or more of the groups of objects, responsive to the detecting step.
41. (New) The method of claim 37, further comprising, for a returned representative of a group, displaying objects of the group other than the representative object by selecting the representative object.
42. (New) The method of claim 37, further comprising:
changing the representative object a particular one of the groups of objects;
assigning the first value to the changed representative object;
assigning the second value to the other objects in the particular group of objects.
43. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the step of designating a representative object is performed by designating the first object selected during the step of creating one or more groups of objects.
44. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein each returned representative object is expandable to show all the members of the group or collapsible to show only the representative object.